

Strategy Lab

Written on: November 2008 | Revised: September 2009

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Acts 16:9

Action Items:

1. Develop your process to receive God's vision for your church plant
2. Learn how to use some important tools:
 - o CoachNet
 - o First Steps
 - o Your coach
3. Develop a first draft Ministry Plan to bring to Strategy Lab

1 Your Task is to Get Ready for Strategy Lab

Discovery Lab was a demanding event; it should serve you well as you get ready for the next step in the journey of church planting: Strategy Lab. Your task now is to prepare yourself for the work to which God has called you and which spiritual, discerning people of God confirmed in you during Discovery Lab (1 Tim. 4:14). For the next 5 years your ministry will be to learn how to plant a new church.

2 Some Observations

- 2.1 Planting a new church is God's work, God's vision. Believe that God has a vision for your future and the future of the people to whom He is calling you (Jonah 4:11).
- 2.2 Learning how to plant a church is a long learning curve (1 Kings 3:7-9).
 - You have not planted a church before.
 - So, you will have to learn how to plant a church as you go.
 - That's why we speak of church planting as a personal journey into the heart of God.
 - In what ways can you see planting a new church is part of your journey into God?
- 2.3 Each church is an original work of God. The church God is asking you to plant has never existed before in the particular place, time and people in which God is asking you to work (1 Cor. 2:1-5).
 - Your primary task, then, is to ask, listen and discern from God what He wants.
 - Reread chp. 9 of Church Unique now.
- 2.4 At the same time, no one approaches this task with a blank mind or history. You, the people to whom God has called you, those of us with Kairos who will walk with you in this journey, and those churches and individuals who support you all have backgrounds, experiences and commitments. In fact, it is unhealthy to "throw away" all these backgrounds by trying to act like they don't exist.
 - List life events/circumstances that have influenced or helped shape your life. (For example, being firstborn, a surprise baby, having moved often or seldom, being abused or sheltered, etc.).
 - List some of the important people who informed and influenced your faith. In what context did this influence occur and what was the nature of that influence (for example: John Jones was my 6-grade Bible teacher at Coming to Faith Church who taught me about God's personal care for me).
- 2.5 You and Kairos are committing to walk together in this spiritual journey.
 - Kairos commits to bring resources, people and peers for you to use as you learn how to plant this church.
 - You are committing to be a faithful learner who will listen, ask and share with the rest of us.
 - Read carefully the Kairos Expectations Agreement. How do you see this agreement helping to prepare you to approach your new work as a church planter?

Firststeps

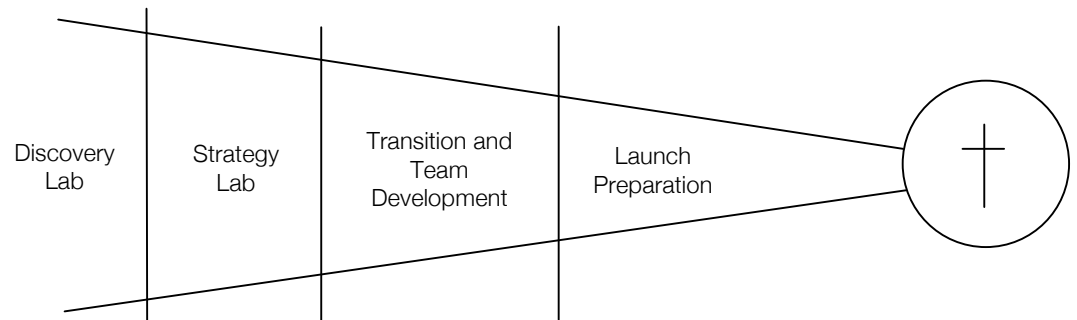
But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings . . . and go on to maturity (Heb. 5:14-6:1).

3 Where You Are Now?

3.1 The Funnel of Ambiguity.

Right now you are at a point of high ambiguity. You probably have just a vague idea of what the church you are planting will look like and an even vaguer idea of how to make it happen.

Picture this ambiguity in the following illustration.



Before Discovery Lab you were at the place of greatest ambiguity. You may have entered Discovery Lab with a firm idea that you wanted to be a lead church planter, or, you may have wanted to know more to help you decide whether to plant a church or not. Either way, you did not have the confirmation of Discovery Lab nor a process to follow that would lead to a new church. Now you have the confirmation of Discovery Lab and you have made your decision to plant a church, so your level of ambiguity has decreased.

Our goal at Kairos is to provide you as clear a path as possible so you can accomplish the vision of planting the new church that God has set before you. Over the next months we will work together to help you find the way God will use to raise up the church He intends. At that point, your level of ambiguity will fade out and a new church will have birthed.

3.2 Discovery Lab Results

1. What personal insight did you receive that was most revealing, confirming or challenging?
2. How have you planned to act upon this insight?

3.3 Reading Preparation

You should purchase and read the following four books for Strategy Lab. Here is what these books will do for you:

Read and become very familiar with Church Unique before coming to Strategy Lab.

- FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church by Gary Rohrmayer is available to you electronically on CoachNet. You and your coach will work through this material over the next five to six months. We'll talk more about FirstSteps shortly.
- Church Unique by Will Mancini. This book guides you through the process of envisioning the new church. Strategy Lab is built upon the fundamental describe in Church Unique. This workbook will help you move the ideas in Church Unique onto paper. You will sharpen these ideas at Strategy lab.
- Kingdom Come by John Mark Hicks and Bobby Valentine. We all work within a multitude of contexts: personal, community and fellowship. Our fellowship context is that of the Churches of Christ. As with any faith heritage, ours has strong points and areas of weakness. Kingdom Come will guide you through some of those heritage topics and point you in some positive directions.
- Spiritual Mentoring by Randy Reese and Keith Anderson. Your other primary relationship besides your coach will be with your spiritual mentor. This book will give you guidance on how to get the most benefit from this relationship.

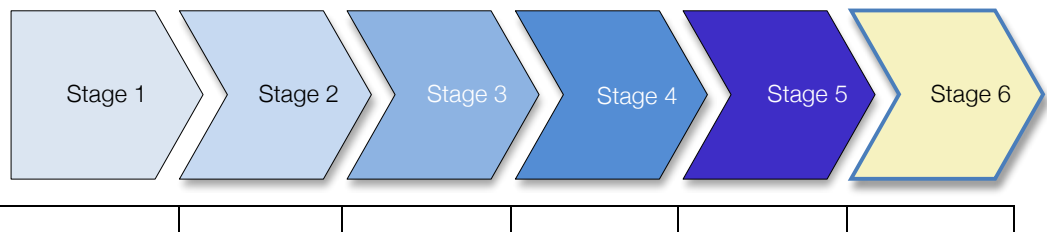
4 Subscribing to CoachNet

4.1 CoachNet is an online resource that will form the backbone of your coaching relationship. Your coach will set up a CoachNet relationship where you will prepare for each of your coaching sessions. CoachNet also provides many resources, work pages, and articles on church planting that you can explore at your leisure.

- Go to the CoachNet homepage at www.coachnet.org.
- On the homepage, click on Store in the upper-right.
- You should see a series of subscription options. Purchase FirstSteps Network w/ CoachNet Membership or Renewal for \$99.

4.2 Once you have purchased CoachNet and set your login information, login then select the My Networks tab. On the left side of the page is a list of your networks. Click on FirstSteps Network to go to the FirstSteps area.

- The center section introduces you to FirstSteps and offers you three different ways to access FirstSteps information. Explore these three different options.
- On the far right of the page is an index bar of links to FirstSteps in sequence as the material appears in the FirstSteps book.
- FirstSteps is organized around the six stages in the process of launching a new church. Click on the index phrase: How did God Launch the Church and name the six stages to the diagram below.



- Robert J. Rowley reported in his DMin. dissertation (“Successfully Coaching Church Planters.” Dallas Theological Seminary, 2005, 82) that good coaching helped planters be “on time, on target, and in balance” as they progressed through the planting stages. FirstSteps is a tool to accomplish this important task.

4.3 In your FirstSteps book read the following sections to complete the following worksheets.

4.4 Why Did God Start the Church?

- Respond to John Piper’s quote “Worship, therefore, is the fuel and the goal of missions,” in relationship to Stuart Murray’s statement that “church-centric missionary thinking is bound to go

astray.” What perspective and warning do these two statements bring to you as you begin to perceive of yourself as a church planter?

- List 25 scripture references dealing with God’s glory, then select your top 3 scriptures and tell why those 3 are most significant to you in summing up the glory of God as the goal of missions.
- What activities can you imagine your church plant doing that would visibly demonstrate “a white-hot enjoyment” of God’s glory?
- How can you imagine these God glorifying activities impacting the evangelistic DNA of your church?

The church must not over-identify itself with the kingdom of God, . . . Yet the church is called to be an outpost of the kingdom. It’s activities, it’s life, its confession is that God’s kingdom is represented here and now while the fullness of the kingdom remains just over the horizon of this life.

4.5 What is a Successful Church Plant?

4.5.1 The 3 descriptors of an indigenous church provided here are the classic mission descriptors of the successful introduction of Christian life into a cross-cultural context. To the list of self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating, missiologists add the concept of self-theologizing. Perhaps it is misleading to view these activities under the rubric of “self” generated, as if the indigenous church is an island unto itself. But these concepts do call us to reflect upon the idea of what constitutes a successful church plant. You’ll do some thinking of the idea of success later. For now, describe your idea of this new church being successful 3 years from now. What will that look like?

4.6 What Does a Missional Church Look Like?

4.6.1 There is a significant movement in North American Christianity that uses the “missional church” as its descriptive identity.

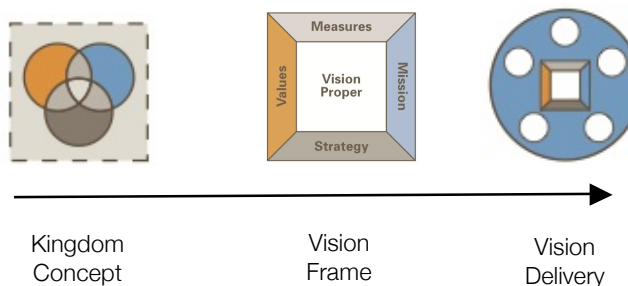
- Read the article “What Makes a Church Missional?,” available on the Kairos website under Resources -> Missional. What does it mean to be missional and Church of Christ?
- View Tim Keller’s presentation “Characteristics of a Missional Church” on You Tube. What are some ideas presented that help you develop your thinking on missional church?
- Define a missional church, as you understand it.

Vision Pathway

5 Church Unique by Will Mancini (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008).

Will Mancini's concept of the vision pathway will guide you in the process of visualizing and articulating the process you will use to plant the church God wants to raise up. We will work through this vision pathway together in Strategy Lab. Meanwhile, this workbook will guide you through the process so you have good material to work with in Strategy Lab.

The vision pathway includes the following three parts:



5.1 BASIC BIBLICAL BELIEFS

The Kingdom Concept as Mancini describes it consists of three parts: 1) the local predicament, 2) the collective potential and 3) the apostolic spirit. We are adding a fourth part—Basic Biblical Beliefs.

5.1.1 Basic Biblical Beliefs. Look at p. xxvi in Church Unique. Mancini has provided us an easy way to picture Basic Biblical Beliefs (BBB): as the dotted line that surrounds the Kingdom Concept drawing. You'll see this anytime he puts all three parts together.

What are BBBs?

- A BBB is a statement of faith. It is belief rooted in God's person, nature or activity. Without the sure and certain foundation of these BBBs there is no way that a church planter or church could ever expect to see success in their kingdom endeavor. For example, Heb. 11:3 proclaims the creative character of God. This BBB is not only rooted in the writer's mind from Genesis and the creation story, it is the essence of his belief that there is a coming city "whose architect and builder is God (Heb. 11:10)." It is this BBB in God's creative nature that the Hebrew writer uses to call God's people to patiently endure persecution (Heb. 11:32-12:4) and to see themselves as participants in the glorious triumph of the church (Heb. 12:22-23)!
- A BBB is scripture demonstrated in life. A BBB is a promise or understanding of God that has been formed and confirmed by the experience of God's activity in life. For example, when God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22) Abraham learned something critical about the nature and character of God. Abraham identified this experience as a BBB when he named that place *Jehovajireh*: The Lord Will Provide (Gen. 22:14).

There are two types of BBBs:

- Type I – Essential BBBs: These are the generally held beliefs that define Christianity. They are seen repeatedly in Christian history and in the general evangelical world. The essential BBBs

are what you most often see on the websites of church plants in their Statement of Faith or Doctrine.

- Look at the theological beliefs listed for Mosaic in Portland, OR (www.tinytw.it/Mosaic)
How many Basic Biblical Beliefs does MosaicPortland list in their statement of theology?

How would you describe this list of theological statements?

- Type II – Specific BBBs: These are those biblical understandings of God that have been learned and tested by experience. You probably rely on some of these already in your life and ministry. The specific BBBs do the following:
 - Set the culture of the church
 - Guide decision-making in the church and
 - Form the basis for the personality and character of the church.

It is these Specific BBBs that you want to identify and make these visible for the church God has set in your heart and mind. The following worksheet will guide you towards identifying some Specific BBBs for the new church you are beginning to see form from His mind into your mind.

“When leaders start thinking clearly, engaging locally, focusing redemptively, and risking boldly, their church becomes an unstoppable force and an irresistible influence.” Church Unique, p. xxvi

BASIC BIBLICAL BELIEFS - Worksheet

Develop a list of Type II Specific Biblical Beliefs you feel undergird your current ideas for the church plant in the following areas. Basic Biblical Beliefs include biblical themes, specific scriptures and biblical stories which are formative for the character, atmosphere and activities of the church.

Personal Experience

What understandings from scripture have you experienced in your life that have become repeating themes or ideas for you?

1. Personally – what biblical beliefs have you come to rely on to give you energy or purpose?
2. Ministry – what biblical beliefs have you learned to rely on in your personal ministry life?

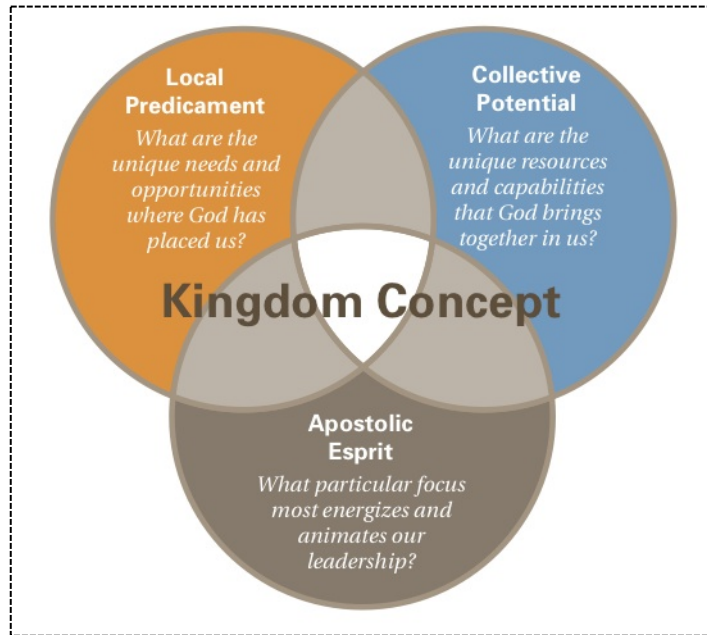
The New Church

What understandings from scripture seem most important in the context of the people of the community in which the new church will form?

1. Target People – what biblical beliefs support your selection for your target people group?
2. Motivations – what biblical beliefs will serve as relevant, recurring motivational sources within the church plant influencing the life and behaviors of its members?
3. Mission – what biblical beliefs will support the specific ways the new church will live out its unique role in the mission of God?
4. Character – what biblical beliefs will support the basic character, attitudes or atmosphere of the new church?

5.2 THE KINGDOM CONCEPT

Reread chapter 9 in Church Unique. The kingdom concept is directly related to your call. The Kingdom Concept is where you will define the mission of the church God is calling you to help bring into existence.



The Kingdom Concept, Mancini, p. 85.

Mancini defines the kingdom concept as “the simple, clear, ‘big idea’ that defines how your church will glorify God and make disciples” (p. 84). When you have a clear, concise expression of your kingdom concept you should be able to complete the following phrase:

“This church exists to glorify God and make disciples who bless (community name) by _____”

This simple phrase fulfills two important tasks:

First, it keeps our minds set on the fact that God’s people exist to reflect the glory of God in the world. Read 1 Chr. 16:24 and Eph. 1:11-14, how does a church show forth and bring out the glory of God in the world?

Second, the purpose God has for his people is to be a blessing to the world. Read Gen. 12:1-3. How do you see yourself in this picture that God gave us of His call to Abraham?

Note: During Strategy Lab we will introduce you to online demographic resources and other disciplines which will help you learn your community.

LOCAL PREDICAMENT Worksheet

By this time you should know the community to which God has called you to plant his new church. This worksheet begins by evaluating the fit between you and the community. The more similar you are to the people you are called to reach the easier it will be for you to contextualize into the community.

1. Describe the people by
 - a. Locality (State, city and neighborhood)

 - b. Describe the neighborhood in which you think you will plant (is it new, older, renewing, what kinds of homes, businesses, public areas, etc.)

 - c. Describe the people (economically, demographically, family situation, transitions, hopes and dreams, values, political stances, etc.)

 - d. Describe the religious context of the people as you now understand it.

2. Self-inventory:
 - a. Why do I think this is the right people for me?

 - b. How do my backgrounds (the conditions in which I grew up, family, faith heritage, etc.) prepare me to reach these people?

 - c. What experiences do I have that have specifically prepared me for ministry to these people?

3. Mancini lists on pp. 86-87 a number of questions you might answer to help you understand the local predicament of your community. The following questions come from that list.
 - How would you describe the “atmosphere of lostness” in your community?

 - What burning issues are alive in the public’s eye and brought to attention by the media?

 - What about your community is the furthest from the kingdom reality that God wants to restore?

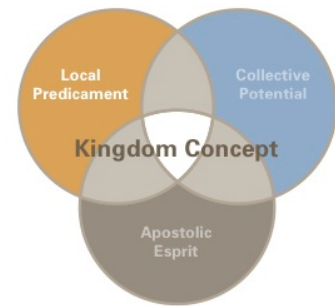
 - What is the most significant change in your community in the last decade, and what needs or opportunities does this create?

 - What one positive change in your community would have the most dramatic effect in people’s lives?

When God calls us, it is always to a people. The visible dominance of place makes it easy to forget about the people. Remember, let the people hold your heart. Your love for the people is what will sustain you through the trials they put you through (Jn. 3:16).

COLLECTIVE POTENTIAL Worksheet

Mancini describes the collective potential as “the unique resources and capabilities that God brings together in us” (p. 89). When you read this section you might have thought, “Hey, he’s writing for a church that already exists. I’m planting a new church!” Here’s where you, as a church planter, have to begin thinking outside the box.



Even when the new church exists only as a vision of God’s preferable future He has already provided you with a community of people. Think of it through this question: “Who are the people who will make up this church?”

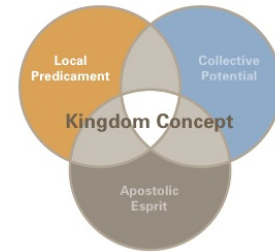
I hope your answer is something like; “The people who are in the community!” They’re your collective potential. Your question is how will you tap into the potential God has already placed in them, for kingdom purposes? Your ministry is to help people in the community grow their faith so they can deliberately join God in His kingdom purposes.

Here are some questions that will help you think about the collective potential of your community.

1. What other churches and religious entities already exist in your community?
2. What significant, positive, visible impact are any of these having in the community already?
3. What service agencies (food banks, counseling, dependency groups, etc.) are already working in the community and what services are they providing? Are there opportunities to partner with them in significant ways?
4. What events and activities are already occurring in the community that draw crowds of people to them? How might you partner in these activities?
5. From what you know now, what ministry could a new church do that would have the most impact for the kingdom in the community?
6. What spiritual gifts would most benefit this ministry to serve the needs of the community? These can become both prayer asks and ways to call seed Christians for your team.
7. What Christians do you already know who may already possess the spiritual gifts, abilities and experiences well suited for ministry in this community? What are these gifts, abilities and experiences?
8. What other resources has God put at your disposal for this ministry?

APOSTOLIC ESPRIT Worksheet

Mancini describes the apostolic esprit as “the hot place in a man’s consciousness, the group of ideas to which and from which he works, the habitual center of his personal energy” (p. 94).



Discovery Lab gave you a good insight into yourself, into your apostolic esprit. Get out the results of Discovery Lab and lets look at your apostolic esprit.

1. What is your personality type according to the Golden (Myers-Briggs)?
 - a. What strengths does it list for you and how do you see yourself using those strengths in a church plant?
 - b. What did you learn about your personality type in relationship to building and working with a team?
 - c. What type of people might you gather on your team who can help round out some areas in which you could use help?
2. What is your primary type from the Personality Predictor (DISC)
 - a. What strengths does this identify for you as a church planter?
 - b. What type of people might you gather on your team who can help round out some areas in which you could use help?
3. What are your top 3 spiritual gifts and how can you see God preparing you to direct the new church through these gifts?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. Mancini suggests other questions on p. 97. Here are a few to consider
 - a. If you knew you couldn’t fail, what one thing would you pursue for God?
 - b. Is there any particular topic, concern, issue or ministry that has been occupied your prayers over long periods of time?
 - c. What particular focus most energizes and animates your leadership?

YOUR KINGDOM CONCEPT Worksheet

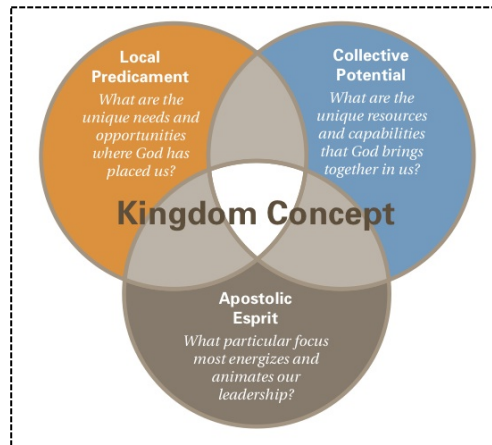
This worksheet helps you combine your insights to gain a first draft at your Kingdom Concept. There is an example for you to look at on p. 103 of Church Unique. You may have more than three key ideas under one or more of the Kingdom Concept categories. For this exercise use only your top three.

Local Predicament

- a.
- b.
- c.

Collective Potential

- a.
- b.
- c.



Apostolic Esprit

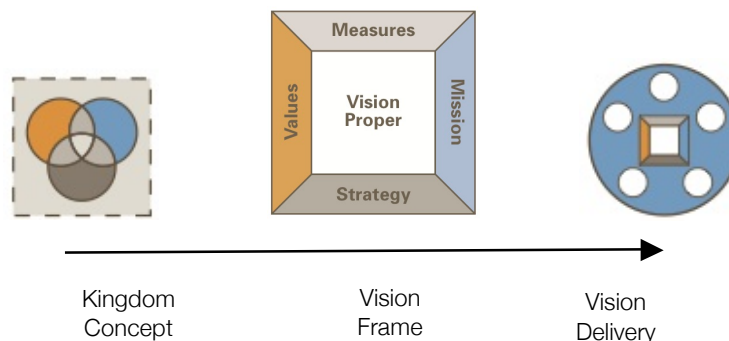
- a.
- b.
- c.

My kingdom concept as I now see it is:

"This church exists to glorify God and make disciples who bless (community name) by

Articulating Vision

The second part of the Church Unique vision pathway is the vision frame. The vision frame provides the missional impetus for the new church. Notice how on p. 113 Mancini places the vision proper in the context of four missional components: 1) Mandate, 2) Motives (values), 3) Map (strategy) and 4) Marks (measures).



6 THE MISSIONAL CONCEPT

The missional concept is a bit of a slippery one. A quick Google search of “missional church” will give you tens of thousands of hits. One of the better sites is www.friendofmissional.org. On the opening page Rick Meigs summarizes a missional stance this way:

A life where ‘the way of Jesus’ informs and radically transforms our existence to one wholly focused on sacrificially living for him and others and where we adopt a missionary stance in relation to our culture.

Listen to Tim Keller’s two minute presentation on “Missional Vs. Evangelistic” on YouTube.

What is the difference between an evangelistic church and a missional church?

What does Keller present as the ultimate goal of a missional church?

Mancini provides the following table as a way to unify our understanding of the missional concept underlying the vision frame.

Frame Component	Missional Reorientation	Answers	Irreducible Question of Leadership
Mission	Mandate	Question Zero	What are we doing?
Values	Motives	Question Hero	Why are we doing it?
Strategy	Map	Question How	How are we doing it?
Measures	Marks	Question Now	When are we successful?
Vision Proper	Mountaintop + Milestones	Question Wow	Where is God taking us?

6.1 The Missional Mandate

The missional mandate is *the clear and concise statement that defines what the church is ultimately supposed to be doing* (Mancini, p. 120). This is Mancini's question zero. The Missional Mandate, as ground zero, is not left up to us. It is God's mission, the *missio dei*. God has already defined for us his mission, both in words (the Bible) and deeds (Jesus).

Mancini takes us back to Matt. 28:18-20 as our divine mission mandate. Here are the three directives of the Great Commission stated as questions:

- How will you make disciples?
- How will you teach them personal obedience to Jesus as Lord?
- How will this new church take the message of the gospel to its community and the nations?

As you think through your plan to start the church God is asking you to begin you need to keep these questions at the forefront of your thinking. The Ministry Plan you will write as part of Strategy Lab will answer these three questions.

As you work on your missional mandate remember it should affect the church in the following ways. Your missional mandate will:

- Enable the church to obey the Great Commission from its unique position in God's kingdom
- Reflect the kingdom concept
- Stoke the redemptive passion of the church
- Reinforce a kingdom lifestyle of engaging others through conversations and relationships

Here are some guidelines for your missional mandate:

- Your mandate should be less than twenty words
- It should arise out of the kingdom concept
- Your mandate should communicate best when it is spoken

MISSIONAL MANDATE Worksheet

1. Review your Kingdom Concept worksheet for the top three items on Local Predicament. Write them here under column A. In column B write the best possible kingdom outcome that could happen to resolve each predicament.

Column A Local Predicament	Column B Best Possible Kingdom Transformation

2. The missional mandate is ultimately about doing. What will this new church do as a result of God's unique equipping?

Column A Collective Potential	Column B Best Possible Kingdom Use

3. God has given you unique preparation and gifts for his purposes. How do you think God intends to use you in the growing of this new church?

Column A Apostolic Esprit	Column B Best Possible Kingdom Intention

4. My kingdom concept as I saw it earlier was:

"This church exists to glorify God and make disciples who bless (community name) by

Now, rewrite your kingdom concept with your new insights:



MISSIONAL MOTIVES Worksheet

Missional Motives are core values. These values are distinctive, passionate, biblical, convictions that determine priorities, influence decisions, express the church personality and are always demonstrated by behaviors.

6.2 Personal Values

1. Based on the decisions you have made in your life (work, education, family, ministry.) what would you see as your personal core values.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. How do you see these values affecting your actions (behaviors) as a church planter?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

6.2.1 Church Core Values

Select a church you have been a part of. What core values can you identify in that church and what behaviors do you see flowing out of each core value.

Name of Church:

Core Values	Behavioral Indicators
a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.

A church will only be able to live out a handful, 5 or 6, core values. More than that and the values lose their impact.

Example:
WONDER – We refuse to separate everyday life from the act of worship. Our desire is to create sacred space beyond the church walls. This not only requires changed persons, but signals our belief that the beauty and power of the arts can be harnessed to communicate Christ. (Ex. 31:1-11).

Core Values Search List

Below is a list of values, in no particular order, that you may find helpful as you explore core values for the new church. This by no means an exhaustive list, but it may bring other potential values to mind.

Prayer	Worship	Leadership	Expansion
Variety	Intercession	Discipleship	Empowerment
Growth	Tradition	Vision	Commitment
Encouragement	Opportunity	Truth	Family
Modeling	Ownership	Loyalty	Training
Flexibility	Fairness	Doctrine	Friendship
Trust	Inerrancy	Ministry	Knowledge
Healing	Character	Integrity	Simplicity
Holiness	Authenticity	Innovation	Relationships
Creativity	Lay Ministry	Courage	Theology
Faith	Compassion	Respect	Risk Taking
Legacy	Support	Acceptance	Boldness
Obedience	Caring	Transformation	Devotion
Influence	Scripture	Health	Spiritual Gifts
Baptism	Passion	Discovery	Results
Evangelism	Wholeness	Service	Intentional
Revelation	Enveloping	Learning	Confession
Excellence	Community	Missions	Relevance
Communication	Reaching Out	Building	Sharing
Praise	Giving	Salvation	Fellowship
Recovery	Restoration	Reconciliation	Forgiveness
Peace	Humility	Gratitude	Significance
Solitude	Investment	Reclamation	Deliverance
Uniqueness	Diligence	Common Sense	Fun
Love	Hope	Kindness	Individuality

List the 3 values that elicit a passionate, positive response from you. Why?

a.

b.

c.

List the 3 values that elicit a passionate, negative response from you. Why?

a.

b.

c.

Make a list of no more than 6 potential core values for the new church here:

1.

4.

2.

5.

3.

6.

Practice Writing Missional Motives

Good missional motives consist of 3 distinct and vital components:

1. A key word or two
2. Brief descriptive phrase explaining the core value
3. Connection to biblical content

Here are two examples:

Agape, Portland, OR:

AGAPE - we believe that we are called to love others unconditionally. We also believe that spiritual maturity is manifested in this unconditional love for others (1 Jn. 4:8; Matt. 5:43-48).

Renovatus, Vancouver, WA:

WONDER – We refuse to separate everyday life from the act of worship. Our desire is to create sacred space beyond the church walls. This not only requires changed persons, but signals our belief that the beauty and power of the arts can be harnessed to communicate Christ (Rom. 11:1-2).

Instructions: Select two core values you identified above and practice writing them with the 3 component parts

Missional Motive #1

Key Word:

Descriptive Statement:

Biblical connection:

Behavioral Indicators

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Missional Motive #2

Key Word:

Descriptive Statement:

Biblical connection:

Behavioral Indicators

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Every core value will impact multiple behaviors and actions in the church plant. We call these behavioral indicators. As a planter you should train yourself to constantly ask, "How does this behavior reflect the core values of our church?"

6.3 MISSIONAL MAP

In the past we've talked about the Flow Chart. The Missional Map is the visual illustration of the discipleship pathway for the new church. The Missional Map illustrates how the church will accomplish its kingdom concept. Remember that strategy is the other word to describe the map. The Missional Map is your strategic plan you are going to use to accomplish God's three part mission:

1. How will you make disciples?
2. How will you teach them personal obedience to Jesus as Lord?
3. How will you take the message of the gospel to its community and the nations?

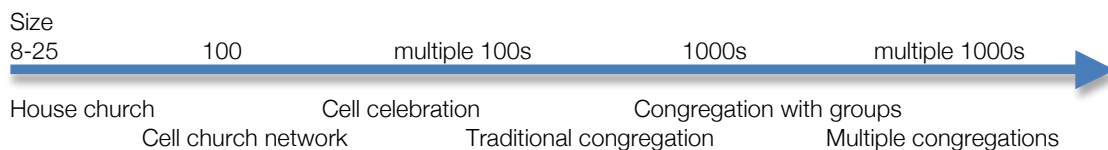
6.3.1 Ministry Flow

Sign in to your CoachNet (www.coachnet.org) and open up your FirstSteps Network. On the right side of the FirstSteps welcome page scroll down until you see Disciple Making. Read Disciple Making, Ministry Flow and Modular Training. You will see a number of diagrams that show the flow or process that people would go through as part of a ministry flow.

We will work intently with you during Strategy Lab to help you develop your Missional Map. In the following worksheet you will do some of the preparation work so you will be prepared for developing your Map.

6.3.2 Ministry Model

There are a number of models of churches. We'll use a continuum that begins on the left with the organic, house churches and moves to the right towards congregational models.



What church model do you think might fit well for your target community?

Provide at least 5 reasons why you think that will be the most appropriate model for those people?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

MISSIONAL MAP Worksheet

A good missional map is action oriented. It provides specific activities that help people move through the process of becoming a lifelong disciple of Jesus. This worksheet will stretch you to think imaginatively about some key missional map components.

6.3.3 Your Networking Activities

1. Personal Outreach – How will you meet people in the community? Read in FirstSteps the pages a) Networking & Gathering, b) Networking and c) Networking Basics. List 10 ways you can build your personal relationship network in your community.
2. Group Outreach – How will you gather and mobilize other people for networking? Read in FirstSteps a) Ministry Partners and b) Gathering Strategies. List 10 activities you can lead people to do that will build relationship networks in your community.
3. Biblically and historically, the church engages in public ministries as part of its mission. Look at the Local Predicament items you identified. List 10 public ministries your launch team could possibly do to address community needs prior to your launch?
4. Public “presence” or visibility is one means by which God will introduce people who are currently outside your natural networks to the church. People came from “all over” to see Jesus. The same is true today. What ways can you think of that your church can use to become visible in your chosen community?

6.3.4 Your Discipleship Pathway

“Discipleship pathway” is a term used to describe an intentional process that will take a person from being a pre-Christian to a fully devoted follower of Christ who can be deployed as a missional leader.

5. List the ministries or activities you have identified that will take people through the following discipleship pathway:
 - a. Preparing – What will you do to prepare people’s hearts to hear and experience the gospel?
 - b. Considering – What will you do to provide opportunity for people to clearly and accurately consider the claims of Jesus as Lord on their lives?
 - c. Connecting – What will you do to connect new believers to mature believers and ministry opportunities?
 - d. Growth and Nurture – What will you do to help people develop a growing relationship with Jesus and ground them in spiritual disciplines that facilitate such growth?
 - e. Leadership Development – What will you do to engage people in leadership activities and help them develop their God given potential as leaders?
 - f. Church Multiplication – What will you do to affirm leadership gifting and promote the multiplication of leaders and ministries, to reach the harvest through the planting of new churches?

Note: your launch coach and others in the Kairos network of planters will help you think through this at Strategy Lab.

MISSIONAL MARKS Worksheet

Personal Discipleship

Mancini quotes George Barna on three important reasons that churches are unsuccessful at making disciples today. Look carefully at them (p. 155):

1. Few churches or Christians
2. We have defined discipleship as “head knowledge” rather than
3. We have chosen to teach people in random, rather than

What Mancini is calling for is a deliberate process and measure for spiritual formation.

- List the top ten indicators from scripture that describe for you the mature, well-equipped Jesus follower.

The apostle Paul wrote his letters in a strong, well-developed (dare we say divine?) form: Prayer, Theology, Practice. Where:

- Prayer gave the goal Paul had in mind through the letter (the particular mark he was aiming for).
- Theology gave the reasons and the power for personal transformation (becoming).
- Practice helped the disciples apply the theology in their real-life situations.

Try this exercise. Under prayer write your two greatest prayers for everyone who will become a Jesus follower in the new church. Then identify two critical points of theology that will motivate and empower towards those prayers. Finally, what discipleship practices might indicate fulfillment of those prayers displayed in real life theology?

My Prayer	God's Theology	Disciples' Practices	
1.	1.	1.	
		2.	
		3.	
	2.	2.	1.
			2.
			3.
2.	1.	1.	
		2.	
		3.	
	2.	2.	1.
			2.
			3.

Church Health and Development

Missional marks also are important for the corporate community of believers, the church.

- If someone were to ask you, “What will be the markers that tell you if you are successful at planting this church?” what would you tell them?

- As you conceive of the overall timeline for your new church, when do you plan for it to:
Sustain itself financially?
Have leadership that is capable of sustaining its life?
Plant its first daughter church?
- What do you think you need to do from the very beginning to set a DNA that will effectively move you towards being a successful church plant in the following areas:
For financial sustainability?
For leader sustainability?
For the ability to reproduce?

Natural Church Development

Natural Church Development, most often referred to as NCD is a worldwide research project that was first published in 1996 by Christian Schwartz. Schwartz asked the question, “If a church was healthy, would its health cause growth?” It did—and it does!

NCD consists of a Church Health Survey to diagnose how well a church is doing on eight quality characteristics, or systems. NCD is also a process of addressing those systems on a yearly basis to help grow the church in a healthy manner. Somewhere around the third year after launch most new churches will move from their launch processes to a systems development stage. When this shift occurs Kairos will change your coach, moving from a launch coach to a NCD coach.

Login to your CoachNet, then click on the My Networks tab. One of the great things you get with CoachNet is access to a lot of NCD materials. You might want to scan the eight quality characteristics listed in the blue index on the right side of the page. For now we just want you to know that NCD exists and that you have access to it.

VISION STATEMENT - Worksheet

A strong vision statement includes time (how long), activities (what we will have accomplished), numbers (how many) and purpose (what God will do through this church). It is the vision of the preferred future that God and you see for the church plant.

Good vision statements are specific and measurable. They should contain descriptions of the following items:

- Time: Vision is future oriented. We suggest 5 years.
- Activities: You might think of activities as the reputation the church has created in its community, i.e., what it is known for.
- Numbers: A good vision statement is specific. How many people? How many networks? How many home communities or simple churches?
- Purpose: A good vision statement is a statement of destination. It provides you both a target to aim for and the criteria by which you will evaluate your progress.

1. Write a compelling and realistic vision for what your church will look like in 5 years.

2. Test the vision:

- a. Is it clear?
- b. Is it concise?
- c. Is it inspiring?
- d. Is it achievable?
- e. Is it measureable?
- f. Can it be shared effectively?